

Application No.: 10/073,261Docket No.: 1509-275**AMENDMENTS TO THE DRAWINGS:**

The attached replacement sheet(s) of drawings include(s) changes to Fig. 5. The replacement sheet(s), which include(s) Figs. 5-6, replace(s) the original sheet(s) including Figs. 5-6.

In Fig. 5, original reference numeral 81 has been changed to 80, and a new reference numeral 81 has been added to designate box "Internet or other Network."

Attachment: Replacement Sheet(s)

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Applicants appreciate the Examiner's thorough review of the present application, and respectfully request reconsideration in light of the preceding amendments and the following remarks.

Claims 1-10, 12-21, 23-24, and 26-29 are pending in the application. Claims 11, 22 and 25 have been cancelled without prejudice or disclaimer. The remaining claims, except claim 14, have been amended to better define the claimed invention. New claims 27-29 have been added to provide Applicants with the scope of protection to which they are believed entitled. New claims 27-29 find solid support in the original specification, e.g., at page 4, lines 21-28. The specification has been revised to correct certain errors. FIG. 5 has been amended to be consistent with the specification. No new matter has been introduced through the foregoing amendments.

The objections to the drawings and specification are believed overcome in view of the above amendments.

The objection to claim 25 and the *35 U.S.C. 112, second paragraph* rejection of claim 11 are moot as claims 25 and 11 have been cancelled.

The *35 U.S.C. 112, first paragraph* of claim 16 is traversed, as claim 16 is enabled by the specification as filed, e.g., at page 4, lines 21-28. The *35 U.S.C. 112, second paragraph* rejection of claim 16 is also traversed, because the scope of claim 16 is ascertainable to a person of ordinary skill in the art, i.e., the required implementation of the protection of the controller logic has been recited in claim 16, i.e., by a trusted mechanism.

The *35 U.S.C. 112, second paragraph* rejection of claim 9 and the *35 U.S.C. 101* rejection of claim 26 are believed overcome in view of the above amendments.

The art rejections of all original claims as being either anticipated by or obvious over *Kocher* (U.S. Patent No. 6,188,766) are noted. Applicants respectfully traverse the rejection of, at least, independent claim 14. In particular, *Kocher* and the other teaching reference, singly or in combination, clearly fail to teach or suggest the method of claim 14, comprising (i) time-stamping data by using the trusted clock at said data storage device; (ii) creating a digital signature dependent

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upon content of said data and time-stamp; and (iii) storing said data and the signature associated with said data in said data storage device on a recording medium of said data storage device. In other words, independent claim 14 requires that the digital signature be created based on both the data and the time-stamp.

In contrast, the applied references, especially *Kocher*, fails to teach or suggest creating a digital signature using the time-stamp. Applicants note that *Kocher* teaches using a digital signature function during the time-stamping operation at column 6, line 5. The passage is, however, very limited on how the digital signature function is used. A further teaching of *Kocher*, found at column 6, lines 26-28, discloses that the data may be encrypted. This passage however, fails to mention any digital signature containing the time-stamp. Finally, Applicants respectfully direct the Examiner's attention to column 8, lines 39-421 of *Kocher*, where it is disclosed that the time indicator (i.e., time-stamp) needs not be encrypted or cryptographically bound to the contents of the documents (i.e., time-stamped data). The *Kocher* time-stamp is not included in any digital signature as can be seen in FIG. 4 of the reference (below the bar code).

Accordingly, Applicants respectfully submit that independent claim 14 is patentable over the applied references.

Claims 15-21 and new claims 28-29 depend from claim 14, or otherwise include all limitations of claim 14, and are considered patentable at least for the reason advanced with respect to claim 14. Claims 15-21 and 28-29 are also patentable on their own merits since these claims recite other features of the invention neither disclosed, taught nor suggested by the applied art.

Specifically, with respect to claim 20, the applied references, especially *Kocher*, clearly fail to teach or suggest the claimed step of storing said data and the signature associated with said data on a recording medium of said data storage device, without transmitting said time-stamped data back over the Internet or other public network. As can be seen in FIG. 4 of *Kocher*, the time-stamped (below the bar code) data (size-reduced images of facsimile transmissions) is transmitted back to the user, contrary to the claimed invention.

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Independent claims 1, 13, 24 and 26 have been amended to include limitations similar to the feature of claim 20 being argued immediately above. Therefore, amended claims 1, 13, 24 and 26 and the claims depending therefrom are also believed patentable over the applied references.

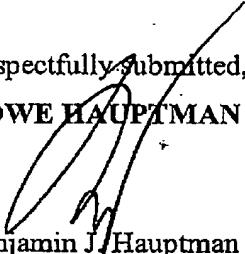
Each of the Examiner's rejections has been traversed/overcome. Accordingly, Applicants respectfully submit that all claims are now in condition for allowance. Early and favorable indication of allowance is courteously solicited.

The Examiner is invited to telephone the undersigned, Applicant's attorney of record, to facilitate advancement of the present application.

To the extent necessary, a petition for an extension of time under 37 C.F.R. 1.136 is hereby made. Please charge any shortage in fees due in connection with the filing of this paper, including extension of time fees, to Deposit Account 07-1337 and please credit any excess fees to such deposit account.

Respectfully submitted,

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